













ESTELLE DE LA CONCHA!

A Tale of the Fallibilities of

BY J. W. SCOTT.

[Concluded.]

Concha at length spoke. "Young man

I can save you if you answer a few ques-

tions which I shall ask. Do but this, and

with Estelle for your bride, you are safe.

Will you betray your companions?

Look at the soldier now—his eyes flash

fire, his nostrils are dilated, his lip

quivers, he draws his noble form up to its

full height and exclaims, 'Dastard, think-

est thou that I am one of thy accursed

race—a blood-thirsty Spaniard—no, never,

never, never. I AM AN AMERICAN. Torture

me with the torture of your inquiries—

chain me in your dark underground

mazes, until the light of day shall become

hateful to my eyes—destroy me by piece

meal, but NEVER will I betray my country

or my God. Though I knew that the

highest honors awaited me, yet if these

are the terms, the betrayal of my com-

panions, I reject your offer, and renounce

your daughter whom I love better than

any other being in this world, and await

death. Know ye, that among my fifty

companions are youths of fifteen years of

age, who fled from a parent's fireside,

and will die ere they give forth one se-

cret. THEY ARE AMERICANS! Farewell

my betrothed; I go to show these Span-

iards how the brave can die.

The guards entered, and the soldier

was torn away from the shrieking Es-

telle to meet his fate.

The sun arose from his ocean bed—the

hour had come. Estelle was alone in her

apartment, seated near the window. She

listened to the terrible din that was re-

sounding throughout the city; thousands

were rushing in all directions crying,

'Death to all Americans.' The very hills

seemed to take up the terrible cry, and

echo it far for the mountain wastes—

'Hope still beat in her heart. Her father

had never performed such a horrible deed

and she could not believe he would sac-

rifice the unfortunate beings who had

vowed to their lives. A loud and terri-

ble volley from the Moro Plaza burst

upon her ears, followed by the demon-

iac yells of the excited populace. She

knew how utterly hopeless had been her

intercessions. All that she prized in this

world was gone.

Go with twelve miles from the city

of Havana, to the convent 'Senora de

Gloria'—enter the prison door, look

around you; and seated upon her bench,

with a pitcher of water, her crucifix and

bible, you will behold Estelle de la Con-

cha, a beautiful and gentle heart-broken

maniac. The birds sing from the orange

groves around her secluded cell. The

perfume of flowers is wafted through her

window on the evening breeze. Music

swells gently through the summer air; all

is life, joy and happiness but she regards it

not.

The memory of that sweet face still

haunts my dreams, and lingers in un-

dering recollection of the bloody scene

enacted in beautiful 'Cubanos.' And

now I see before me that horrible, vacant

stare, as with one hand to heaven, and

the other upon her heart she conjures me

as an American to revenge the death of

my noble countrymen, and that of her murdered

THE OLD MAN'S PRAYER FOR LIFE.

THEIR battle and excitement of the day was over-

come, and the old man, who had been

looked with his deepest anxiety for their return—the

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